

From: [Allison Westfall](#)
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Subject: Weekly Update: Public Schools Budget hearing Thursday; Post Legislative Dates; ISAT info & more
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TO: Superintendents, Charter Administrators, Principals, Business Managers, Title I Directors, Special Education Directors, Testing Coordinators, School District Communicators, Human Resource Directors and State Department of Education Staff

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WEEKLY UPDATE

Public Schools Budget hearing Thursday at 8 a.m.

Superintendent of Public Instruction Sherri Ybarra will present the FY19 Public Schools budget to the Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee (JFAC) at 8 a.m. Thursday. The public can watch the hearing live at this link: <http://idahoptv.org/insession/leg.cfm>

The hearing is the first step in the budget-setting process. After holding hearings on all agencies' budgets, JFAC will move to setting budgets.

Department hosts open house Monday for lawmakers, public in Capitol

Idaho State Department of Education programs and initiatives will take center stage at the State Capitol Monday, Jan. 22, at a legislative open house from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the first floor Rotunda.

“This is an exciting opportunity for us to show lawmakers, and the people they represent, the return on their investment and what we’re doing to help schools and students throughout the state succeed,” Superintendent of Public Instruction Sherri Ybarra said. “Displays will highlight our initiatives and legislative priorities, from keeping great teachers in the state to eliminating bullying.”

Tentative dates set for the Department's post legislative review

Tentative dates for Superintendent Ybarra's post legislative review are:

- April 10 – Fort Hall, Shoshone Bannock Hotel
- April 11 – Twin Falls, Red Lion Canyon Springs
- April 12 – Boise, Red Lion Downtowner
- April 25 – Coeur d’Alene Resort
- April 26 – Lewiston, Lewis and Clark State College

Registration would open in early March.

System for Award Management (SAM) registration, renewal simple process

The System for Award Management (SAM) registration is a federal requirement for all local education agencies receiving federal funds. Regulations require annual registration. Renewing the SAM registration is very simple and can be completed in a few minutes. The process is shown on this PDF: <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/accounting/files/gra/SAM-Registration-Flow-Chart.pdf>. Recently, department staff have received questions about outside vendors who are offering a service to aid in the renewal process. LEAs are not required to use these vendor services. Vendors charge a fee to complete the renewal of SAM registration. The SAM registration is a free service and there is no cost to maintain the registration. Please contact Aaron McCoy at amccoy@sde.idaho.gov if you have questions.

Help nominate the 2018 Idaho History Teacher of the Year

The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History is seeking nominations for Idaho History Teacher of the Year. State History Teachers of the Year receive \$1,000, an archive of materials for their school’s library and an invitation to attend a Gilder Lehrman Teacher Seminar. The deadline for 2018 nominations is March 31, 2018. More information at <https://www.gilderlehrman.org/content/eligibility>.

Information on commentary about ISAT by Smarter Balanced

Department staff were contacted about an opinion piece written by individuals with the Real Clear Education online blog information site. The commentary speculates the ISAT by Smarter Balanced Assessment is flawed because students did not perform as the blog authors expected in the 2016-17 school year.

Smarter Balanced is responding to the opinion piece with its own piece on Monday.

In a two-page memo to its member states, Smarter Balanced notes: “As discussed with our (Smarter Balanced) Technical Advisory Committee and members in October 2017, we currently have no indication of a technical issue with the 2016-17 test results.” The memo further describes the steps used to analyze the assessment. The technical reports referenced in the memo as well as other reports are publicly available and may be found on the Smarter Balanced website at this link:

<http://www.smarterbalanced.org/assessments/development/additional-technical->

[documentation/](#)

Smarter Balanced will conduct additional verification studies with initial results in March and a full technical report in July.

SDE Assessment Director Karlynn Laraway forwarded the link to the blog to the state's Technical Advisory Committee, composed of national experts in assessment, for member review and feedback.

The consensus among TAC members was that change in scores from 2015-16 and 2016-17 were within what would be considered normal. Idaho TAC members noted that while the opinion piece speculates drops in scores were caused by technical errors in the assessment because test scores did not rise in a one-year period. Idaho TAC members questioned the assumption that test results will increase annually and noted that many factors can influence changes in scores.

Upcoming events

- **Professional Standards Commission meeting**, Thursday and Friday, Boise
- **JFAC Public Schools Budget public hearing**, Thursday Boise
- **Idaho Parent Teacher Association Legislative Day**, Thursday, Boise
- **Idaho Education Technology Association Conference**, Feb. 5-7, Boise
- **Idaho School Boards Association Day on the Hill**, Feb. 19-20, Boise
- **Idaho Prevention Conference**, April 12-13, Sun Valley
- **Idaho Indian Education Summit**, June 14-15, North Idaho College
- **Register for 2017-18 Danielson Training Session.** Learn more [here](#)

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